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REPORT TO MAYOR AND THE CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Bradley C. Osgood – Chief of Police

DATE: September 10, 2019

SUBJECT: NH DOS – Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management Exercise Funds Appropriation

Recommendation

Accept and appropriate the amount of thirty-five thousand dollars (\$35,000) in grant funding provided through the New Hampshire Department of Safety, Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management. Said funding has been approved by the grantor to conduct an exercise designed to assess and evaluate the Police Department's response to a critical incident/active shooter incident at Merrimack Valley High School.

Background

The Concord Police Department continues discussions with the Merrimack Valley School District regarding the potential threat of a critical incident/active shooter in their environment. The Police Department works closely with the school district in providing training for these types of incidents to include the expected response of school district personnel as well as how law enforcement intends to respond.

Training in critical incident/active shooter response is critical in the development of response plans and also to test and evaluate the response and address deficiencies that may occur. This type of training also exercises interoperability between law enforcement, emergency services, and civilian staff.

Discussion

The New Hampshire Department of Safety, Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, has approved the Department's grant application and has set aside grant funds in the amount of \$35,000 for the Department to conduct an exercise in conjunction with the Merrimack Valley School District. This grant funding will cover overtime expenses for participating personnel as well as backfill, supplies, evaluators, food supplies, and other incidentals that may occur with conducting such an exercise. There is no requirement for any

matching city funds to be obligated for this training exercise, and it is anticipated that no city funds will be utilized.

The location of this training, Merrimack Valley High School, is a preferred location by the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, and has the full support of the Merrimack Valley School District. In addition to the Concord Police Department and Concord School District personnel, this exercise will also include personnel and assets from the Concord Fire Department and Central NH Special Operations Unit. Costs associated with the participation of these agencies in this exercise have also been included in the grant appropriation.

Pending City Council approval this exercise is anticipated to be conducted during the Spring of 2020.